THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The issue regarding the administration of Prevention of Money-laundering statute will be considered after the passage of the Prevention of Money-laundering Bill, 1999 by the Parliament.

Violation of Customs Act by container Corporation of India

2687. SHRI V. P. DURAISAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that Customs Department at Inland Container Depot, Tuglakabad, New Delhi captured and proved smuggling, pilferage of imported commodities from containers and deliberate violation of Customs Act by Container Corporation of India and a section of its officials/agencies;

(b) if so, the details of such cases proved and under investigation during the last three years; and

(c) the loss suffered by way of custom duty evasion in such cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR) : (a) One such case in the last three financial years of attempted unauthorised removal at Inland Container Depot (ICD), Tughlakabad, involving employees of a Conservancy and Sanitation Contractor, employed by Container Corporation of India (CCI) and CCI own officials has been detected by the Customs.

(b) On 2-4-1997 at the main gate of ICD, the Customs Authorities detected an attempt to remove 6370 kgs of plastic scrap alongwith garbage/ packing materials. The scrap was seized and after detailed investigation case was duly adjudicated in April, 1998. The seized scrap was confiscated. Penalty of Rs. 50,000 on the Conservancy and Sanitation Contractor and penalties of Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 3.000 respectively on two employees of CCI for their involvement in this unauthorised removal were imposed under Section 112(a) of the Customs Act.

(c) Does not arise. Since the seized scrap was confiscated, there was no duty loss to the Government.